

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157338

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NY 02540 ACTION SECSTATE DATED
JUNE 19, 1978.

QUOTE: C O F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02540

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, UN

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW): LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

REF: USUN 2405

1. SUMMARY. DURING WEEK OF JUNE 12, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES DISCUSSED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WITH UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL RIPERT, WHO STRESSED PESSIMISM OF CHAIRMAN JAZAIRI AND FEARS OF SYG WALDHEIM OF EFFECT OF A FAILURE OF COW ON FUTURE OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN U.N. POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED HIGH-LEVEL GROUP DISCUSSION OF COW REMAINS, BUT MOST LIKELY ONLY IN GENEVA ECOSOC FRAMEWORK. MISSION'S "TWO-PHASE" SUGGESTION (REFTEL, PARA 9) SEEMS TO CORRESPOND TO IDEAS OF SOME OTHER WEO'S. END SUMMARY.

2. ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 14 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES CALLED ON JEAN RIPERT, UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL FOR INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR WELLS AND RIEMER. RIPERT NOTED THAT BOTH HE AND SYG WALDHEIM HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH JAZAIRI (INCLUDING LENGTHY POST MORTEMES ON MAY 14). IN THESE CONTACTS, THE CHAIRMAN SAW NEAR-BREAKDOWN OF COW AS A PERSONAL DEFEAT; HE SAW PROPOSAL OF CONCLUDING WITH CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY AS "DEGRADING" TO EXERCISE AND UNACCEPTABLE; HE

REPEATED VIEW THAT COW SHOULD LEAD TO "CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGHS" IN PROBLEM-SOLVING, PARTICULARLY IN FOLLOW-UP TO SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. IF 77 WERE WRONG IN TACTICS, AND IN SEEKING A LEVEL OF DETAIL MORE APPROPRIATE TO OTHER FORA, WEST MADE INSUFFICIENT EFFORTS TO ADVANCE PROGRESS; AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS NOT ENOUGH. IN THIS MOOD, JAZAIRI SEEMED TO RULE OUT ANY INITIATIVES OF HIS OWN TO SEEK NEW BASIS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS, BUT URGED SYG TO BRING HIS VIEWS TO ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS.

3. WALDHEIM IN TURN, WAS VERY WORRIED THAT A FAILURE OF COW COULD LEAD TO CONCLUSION THAT UN IS IMPOSSIBLE AS A FORUM FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. RIPERT SEEMS CLEARLY CHARGED WITH EFFORTS AT PREVENTING SUCH A FAILURE. HE SAW 77 AS BEING "WEAK", AND IMPLIED THAT THEREFORE WEST WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE IDEAS FOR SOLUTION. (HE WAS TRYING TO FORM HIS OWN "SOLUTION"). HE DOES NOT SEE SUCH A SOLUTION IN PROCEDURE ALONE; A TWO-PHASE APPROACH WOULD HAVE NO APPEAL TO 77 PER SE UNLESS IT WERE CLEARLY PERCEIVED AS CARRYING WITH IT CLEAR PROMISE OF LEADING TO CHANGES. HE BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL THAT WEST SUGGEST AN AREA OF EMPHASIS WHERE IT BELIEVED THERE WAS ROOM FOR MOVEMENT. HE HAD URGED AMBASSADOR MILLS TO GET SOME DISCUSSION GOING AMONG "FRIENDS".

4. MEANWHILE, SECRETARIAT WAS DOING WHATEVER IT COULD TO
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PREPARE. RELATIVE TO LINKAGE BETWEEN LDC AND DC GROWTH, DISCUSSED AT MAY MEETING, HE WAS ASSIGNING ONE OF HIS STAFF TO EXAMINE EXISTING WORK, DONE AT OECD (INCLUDING DAC DRAFT PAPER ON STEPPED-UP INVESTMENT), AT UNCTAD AND ELSEWHERE. AFTER THIS SURVEY IS COMPLETED, HE WOULD BEGIN OWN STUDY IN SECRETARIAT, IN SEPTEMBER. HE NOTED THIS WORK WOULD REQUIRE FUNDS. RELATIVE TO SEPTEMBER MEETING, HE HAD ASKED FAO AND UNIDO TO SUBMIT 2-3 PAGE PAPERS, GIVING A FEW KEY QUESTIONS WHICH COW MIGHT DISCUSS (SUCH AS LINK OF AGRICULTURE TO TRADE AND RESOURCE TRANSFERS).

5. ON JUNE 16, MISSION DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR LIMITED HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS ("NORWEGIAN PROPOSAL") WITH KJELDGAARD OF DANISH MISSION, WHO IS IN CONTACT WITH NORWEGIANS. HE NOTED THAT INITIAL PROSPECTS FOR A HIGH-LEVEL "EXPANDED BUREAU" MEETING IN LATE JUNE HAD BEEN DASHED BY JAZAIRI'S POOR TACTICS IN ASKING 77 TO ENDORSE PROPOSED LIST OF LDC PARTICIPANTS IN LIMITED GROUP. THIS (AS U.S. EXPERIENCED IN EARLIER EFFORTS) PROVED IMPOSSIBLE, AND JAZAIRI NOW FELT UNABLE TO CALL MEETING. STOLTENBERG, ALSO UNWILLING TO CALL A

MEETING, HAD DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH MILLS. MILLS BELIEVED SOME HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS NECESSARY, AND HE AND STOLTENBERG AGREED BEST SOLUTION NOW WOULD BE A DINNER DURING FIRST WEEK OF ECOSOC, WHEN MANY HIGH-LEVEL PERSONALITIES MIGHT BE THERE FOR GENERAL DEBATE. THERE WERE NO DETAILS AS TO WHO WOULD CALL DINNER, ETC.

COMMENT: WE HAVE IMPRESSION THIS INFORMATION RATHER CLOSELY HELD. MISSION COULD EXPLORE FURTHER WITH MILLS NEXT WEEK.

6. KJELDGAARD PROPOSES TO CALL NEXT MEETING OF "ECONOMIC VINCI GROUP" FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 AT 3 P.M.

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7. MISSION HAS INFORMALLY DISCUSSED "TWO-PHASE" APPROACH WITH A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS HERE. CANADIANS (KINSMAN) VERY FAVORABLE. JAPANESE SUGGEST THIS SIMILAR TO PROPOSAL MADE, WITH LESS DETAIL, BY DEPUTY MINISTER MIYAZAKI AT MAY MEETING. FRG MORE CAUTIOUS. SWEDISH MISSION HERE HAS ELABORATED SOMEWHAT SIMILAR PLAN, WHEREBY COW WOULD AGREE TO RECOMMEND SETS OF "CORE ISSUES" AND "OPTIONS" FOR EXAMINATION BY GOVERNMENTS AND APPROPRIATE BODIES, AND WOULD THEN REEXAMINE PROGRESS ONE YEAR LATER. THEY ARE PROPOSING PLAN TO STOCKHOLM. LEONARD UNQUOTE VANCE

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